



[6450-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals: Standard Work Specifications for Single Family Energy Upgrades

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) requests comments on the revised version of the *Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals: Standard Work Specifications for Single Family Energy Upgrades*. This document is a set of work specifications applicable to energy efficiency retrofits of single family homes. These specifications are intended as a resource for any organization, company, or individual involved in energy efficiency retrofits of residential homes. This document was released for public comment in draft form on November 9, 2010. As a result of the comments received, EERE made revisions to the document for which EERE is providing an opportunity for public comment.

DATES: Comments on the *Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals: Standard Work Specifications for Single Family Energy Upgrades* must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on April 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: A link to the online public comment tool can be found at:

<http://nrel.pnnl.gov/forumdisplay.php/5-SWS-for-Single-Family-Homes>

You may also submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>
- By email: retrofit.guidelines@nrel.gov
- By mail: National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Attn: Chuck Kurnik, RSF402
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401

For further information on how to submit comments, please see the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joshua Olsen, Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs, Mailstop EE-2K, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585.

Phone number: (202) 287-1813. Email: Joshua.Olsen@ee.doe.gov

Christopher Calamita, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel, Forrestal Building, GC-71, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585.

Phone number: (202) 586-1777. E-mail: christopher.calamita@hq.doe.gov .

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

EERE through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory is developing voluntary work specifications for the work involved in home energy upgrades. This document builds upon the considerable body of material already in circulation and the cumulative knowledge gathered throughout the 30-year history of the Weatherization Assistance Program and broader home performance industry.

The development of the *Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals: Standard Work Specifications for Single Family Energy Upgrades (SWS)* is supported by the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Training and Technical Assistance Plan. The process of developing the *SWS* has involved a historic collaboration between WAP practitioners and trainers, home performance contractors, building scientists, organized labor, healthy homes and worker safety experts, and other professionals in the building trades and throughout the retrofit industry. On November 9, 2010, EERE issued a notice requesting public comment on a draft version of the *SWS*. 75 FR 68781. Additional background regarding this effort can be found in that document.

The first public comment period resulted in nearly 1000 comments from approximately 100 unique commenters from across the Weatherization and home performance industries. As a result of issues identified by commenters, EERE gave further consideration to a number of technical issues and subsequently made changes to the *SWS*. EERE is providing an opportunity for public comment on the technical revisions made in response to prior public comments.

Issues on Which DOE Seeks Comment

DOE is seeking comments and views of interested parties on the following issues:

- Revisions to the *SWS* document subsequent to the initial public comment period including:
 - Reformatting of the document to improve usability
 - Removal of specifications related to the installation of HVAC equipment
 - Removal of the Job Task Analyses for being out of scope with the *SWS* primary intent of defining quality outcomes of installed work
 - Alignment with the International Residential Code and other applicable standards

Submission of Comments

DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding the proposed guidelines no later than the date specified under the DATES heading. If submitting comments via the DOE webpage, please follow all instructions on the web page:

http://www.weatherization.energy.gov/retrofit_guidelines. This website is specifically designed for ease of use to facilitate the public comment process. DOE will transfer comments received on our website to Regulations.gov for public review.

Comments, data, and information uploaded to Regulations.gov, or submitted via DOE's e-mail address or regular mail should be provided in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, PDF, or text (ASCII) file format. Interested parties should avoid the use of special characters

or any form of encryption, and wherever possible, comments should include the electronic signature of the author. Comments, data, and information submitted to DOE via regular mail may include one signed paper original.

According to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit two copies: one copy of the document including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document that does not include the information believed to be confidential. DOE will make its own determination as to the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

Factors of interest to DOE when evaluating requests to treat submitted information as confidential include:

- (1) A description of the items;
- (2) Whether and why such items are customarily treated as confidential within the industry;
- (3) Whether the information is generally known by or available from other sources;
- (4) Whether the information has previously been made available to others without obligation concerning its confidentiality;
- (5) An explanation of the competitive injury to the submitting person which would result from public disclosure;
- (6) A date upon which such information might lose its confidential nature due to the passage of time; and

(7) Why disclosure of the information would be contrary to the public interest.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 23, 2012.

AnnaMaria Garcia
Program Manager
Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

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